

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 199295

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-07 AID-05 FEA-01 ERDA-05 INT-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /043 R

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EB/ORF/FSI:LRAIGHT (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA REQUEST FOR PETROLEUM TRAINING

REFERENCE: GUATEMALA 3875 AND PREVIOUS

L. DEPARTMENT REGRETS DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTELS. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES INFORMATION FROM EB, CU, AID, FEA, ERDA, USGS AND INTERIOR; IIE, AM PET INST; AND SEVERAL PETROLEUM COMPANIES. WHAT EMERGED FROM THESE CONTACTS IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT ANY COUNTRY WITH INTERESTING AMOUNTS OF PETROLEUM HAS THE FUNDS TO PAY ITS OWN WAY.

2. HERE ARE FOUR WAYS WE COULD HELP PROVIDE U.S. ADVICE ON PETROLEUM LAW AND REGULATIONS: A) AMERICAN SPECIALIST; B) USG OFFICIAL (MAYBE FEA); C) SOLICITING LIST OF PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRMS; D) URGING GUATEMALANS REQUEST USG OFFICIAL THROUGH UNDP (PERHAPS USGS, INTERIOR). WE ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE CONSIDERED IESC.

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PAGE 02 STATE 199295

3. SHOULD POST REQUEST IT, CU MIGHT BE ABLE LOCATE AMERICAN SPECIALIST FROM EITHER UNIVERSITY OR NON-PETROLEUM COMPANY PRIVATE SECTOR. (FOR EXAMPLE, INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SUGGESTED ONE SUCH PERSON, WHOSE C.V. BEING POUCHED.)

SPECIALIST WOULD HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON HOW U.S. HAS COPEd WITH OUR PROBLEMS RATHER THAN GUATEMALAN CODE PER SE.

4. FEA HAS OFFICIALS WITH BACKGROUND IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PETROLEUM REGULATION. ONE MAY BE IN AREA IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

5. THERE ARE MANY U.S. CONSULTING FIRMS WITH EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD. A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONTRACTED THEIR SERVICES. COST TO BE BORNE BY GOG WOULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF DOLS 50,000.

6. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN GREATER PARTICIPATION BY U.S. OFFICIALS THROUGH UNDP ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. USGS OFFICIALS HAVE SERVED UNDER CONTRACT FOR UNDP IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND GUATEMALA COULD EXPRESS PREFERENCE FOR U.S. OFFICIALS, MAKING USGS PARTICIPATION MORE LIKELY.

7. WITH REGARD TO TRAINING, WE HAVE DEVELOPED FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES, MOST OF WHICH PROVIDE FOR GOG TO BEAR MAJOR COSTS: A) THROUGH SECTION 607 OF FAA, AID'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES COULD HELP THE GOG PLAN FOR ITS MANPOWER TRAINING NEEDS, BUT GOG WOULD HAVE TO BEAR ALL COSTS; B) AID'S OFFICE OF TRAINING HAS NO INDEPENDENT FUNDS BUT COULD ARRANGE FOR TRAINING IF MISSION COULD FIND MONEY OR IF GOG OFFERS TO PAY ALL COSTS; C) ENERGY SEMINARS AND SOME OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE GIVEN BY USGS, ERDA, FEA AND OTHER AGENCIES; GUATEMALAN PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE ARRANGED ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS; D) AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE HELPS TO ORGANIZE SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES; E) PETROLEUM COMPANIES MIGHT BE WILLING ASSIST IN HOLDING SEMINARS, BRINGING IN EXPERTS, ETC.; F) IIE-TYPE AGENCY COULD ASSIST IN SETTING UP AND ADMINISTERING UNIVERSITY LEVEL TRAINING ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS; G) GOG COULD ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH UNIVERSITIES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 199295

8. WE ARE POUCHING BROCHURES FROM API DESCRIBING TYPES OF TRAINING IT ORGANIZES. TRAINING COULD BE ARRANGED BASED ON SPECIFIC GUATEMALAN DESIRES. COURSES, GENERALLY ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, RUN 2 WEEKS TO 3 MONTHS AND COST APPROXIMATELY 400 DOLS. PER WEEK PER STUDENT. THEY ARE CONDUCTED AT BEST U.S. SCHOOLS IN PARTICULAR FIELD.

9. WE SPOKE WITH EXXON TO SOUND OUT RECEPTIVITY OF PETROLEUM FIRMS TO REQUESTS FROM GUATEMALANS. FIRM'S MIAMI OFFICE SAID WOULD WELCOME APPROACH BY GOG AND ASKED IF LOCAL MANAGER MIGHT CONTACT EMBASSY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

COMPANY MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, DIFFICULTIES IN PLACING
GUATEMALANS IN SUBSIDIARIES AS TRAINEES.

10. WE UNDERSTAND VENEZUELANS HAVE CONTRACT WITH IIE TO
ADMINISTER UNIVERSITY-LEVEL MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAM. IF
GUATEMALANS INTERESTED IN THIS APPROACH, CU COULD LOCATE
SUITABLE CONSULTANT FROM IIE OR FROM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY
WITH EXPERIENCE IN ADMINISTERING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. ALL
COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY GOG, HOWEVER.

11. POST COULD REWORK EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SOME
SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY TRAINING. CU CAN OFFER NO HOPE THAT
THE OVERALL EXCHANGE BUDGET NOR POST'S SHARE COULD BE
INCREASED ENOUGH TO MAKE COST-SHARING AGREEMENT WITH GOG
MEANINGFUL POSSIBILITY.

12. SECONDING GUATEMALANS TO USG AGENCY IS NOT FEASIBLE.
ANY ON-JOB TRAINING IN U.S. DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE AT THIS
POINT, ALTHOUGH COMPANIES COULD BE EXPECTED (OR REQUIRED BY
GOG) PROVIDE TRAINING FOR OWN EMPLOYEES ONCE ENGAGED IN
EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.

13. POUCHING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFO.

14. DEPT. COULD DEVELOP MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING
ANY OF ABOVE POSSIBILITIES WHICH POST BELIEVES HOLD PROMISE.

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